



Communications & Marketing
200 Earle Clements Ln. | Alumni Tower East
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P: 606-783-9328 | F: 606-783-5056
www.moreheadstate.edu

NEWS RELEASE

September 1, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU receives national Best for Vets ranking as employer of military veterans

Morehead State University has long been nationally recognized for its commitment to student-veterans and putting them on a path to success. Now, MSU is earning high marks as an employer of veterans.

Military Times has named MSU to its Best for Vets: Employers 2020 list. It was one of 144 organizations that made the list, which examined a company or organization's efforts to reach out to veterans and provide them a setting to succeed. Rankings criteria are based on Military Times' years of research and interview with veterans while factoring in feedback from human resources professionals and veterans' advocates.

MSU has previously been recognized by Military Times, along with Victory Media and U.S. Veteran Magazine, as being a veteran-friendly institution. Dr. Silas Session, director of military initiatives at MSU, said everything from its academic programs and connection to ROTC to the University's overall welcoming atmosphere that has led to recognition as an ideal fit for both student-veterans and veteran employees.

"When you set the conditions to set the veteran students right, the veteran employee right, you set the standard for all to be treated right and that attracts people to the organization," Session said.

Additional information for veterans, national guardsmen and reservists, and military families is available at www.moreheadstate.edu/veterans, or by contacting Session at 606-783-9416 or ssession@moreheadstate.edu.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 2, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU earns Tree Campus Higher Education Designation

For the fifth consecutive year, Morehead State has been designated as a Tree Campus for 2019 by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The Tree Campus Higher Education designation, formerly called Tree Campus USA, is awarded annually, and recognizes efforts made in the previous year to promote healthy trees and engage students in conservation.

To earn the designation, MSU met the five core standards for an effective campus forest management, including:

- Establishment of a tree advisory committee.
- Providing evidence of a campus tree-care plan.
- Dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program.
- An Arbor Day observance.
- Sponsorship of student service-learning projects.

Tree Campus USA, a national program launched in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation, honors colleges and universities and their leaders for promoting healthy trees and engaging students and staff in the spirit of conservation.

For more information about sustainability efforts at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/sustainability.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 3, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Appalachian Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair and Hometown Holiday canceled

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19, the Kentucky Folk Art Center (KFAC) has announced that the annual Appalachian Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair has been canceled for 2020.

Tammy Stone, KFAC coordinator, said there's no way to organize the event to keep vendors and patrons safe.

"The process for having this event requires at least a four-month window to prepare for the more than 100 arts and crafts vendors accepted to the juried event," Stone said.

The Appalachian Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair has been held the first Saturday in December in the Laughlin Health Building for over 35 years. The Arts & Crafts Fair for the past two years has been a collaborative effort between the Kentucky Folk Art Center and Downtown Morehead, Inc.

Hometown Holiday, organized by Downtown Morehead, Inc., began in 2000 as a way to kick off the holiday shopping season on Main Street with music, artisans, dancing, visits with Santa and more. That event has also been canceled for 2020.

For more information about KFAC visit www.moreheadstate.edu/kfac, email kfac@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2204.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 4, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSUPD hires new officer

The Morehead State University Police Department (MSUPD) has added a new officer to its ranks with the swearing-in of Officer Zechariah Cline Wednesday, Sept. 2.

Cline is a graduate of Rowan County Senior High School. He worked as Rowan County Court Security and most recently as a Morehead City Police Officer. Cline is a graduate of the Department of Criminal Justice Training at Eastern Kentucky University. He currently resides with his wife Whitney and newborn daughter, Brinklee, in Morehead.

The MSUPD has officers on patrol 24-7 to serve the campus community. For more information about the MSUPD, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/police.

For non-emergencies, email police@moreheadstate.edu, call 606-783-2035 or use the LiveSafe app. In an emergency, always call 911.

Photo Caption: District Judge William Roberts swore in the newest officer to join the MSUPD, Zechariah Cline, Wednesday, Sept. 2.

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MSU closed for Labor Day

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, Morehead State will be closed Monday, Sept. 7.

Administrative offices will be closed, and classes will not meet.

The Camden-Carroll Library and the University Store will be closed.

The University Post Office will be closed, and mail will not be delivered.

The Recreation and Wellness Center will be open from 3 to 9 p.m. on Labor Day.

The MSU Police Department will be on duty during the closure. To contact the police for non-emergencies, call 606-783-2035 or use the LiveSafe smartphone app. In the event of an emergency, always dial 911.

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Eagle alums evolving their leadership skills through BRIGHT Kentucky program

A pair of Morehead State student-athlete alums are getting a unique opportunity to expand their leadership skills and a wonderful networking opportunity by participating in the BRIGHT Kentucky Program.

Patrick Lager, an Eagle baseball alum and current Area President for Whitaker Bank in Mt. Sterling, and Sara Hacker, a softball alum and current Assistant Director of Athletics for External Affairs and Senior Woman Administrator at Morehead State, are taking part in the program this year.

Part of the Leadership Kentucky initiative, BRIGHT Kentucky is designed for future leaders, generally ages 21-40, specifically in the Appalachia region, with the goal of offering ethical leadership training, expanding networking opportunities and introducing mentors to advance communities and spur economic development. The group has already met twice and has future meetings set for September, October and November in Berea, Frankfort, Pikeville and Hazard.

"To have this opportunity to be able to participate in the BRIGHT program has already been so rewarding. It's very important to me to continue the concept of growth in leadership, not only in the Morehead community but in the whole Appalachia area," said Hacker.

Hacker, a native of Florence, Ky., joined the softball team in the fall of 2000 and was on the team until 2004.

Lager is originally from Orlando, Fla., and came to MSU in the fall of 2003 after two seasons at the Community College of Baltimore County (Md.) – Catonsville.

Lager appeared in more than 50 games in two seasons, primarily as an Eagle catcher, and collected five home runs.

"While playing baseball at MSU, I remember learning distinct leadership skills that incorporated being the standard that others could follow," Lager stated. "That allowed me to be a leader and the person the team depended upon, on and off the field. Now as an Area President for Whitaker Bank and a participant in the BRIGHT Program, I see those skills from Sonny Allen Field are now a part of my life."

BRIGHT Kentucky is made possible by a \$500,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant and private funding from the Whitaker Foundation and others.

"This experience has allowed me to not only continue to build a network and spread Blue and Gold, it has allowed me to join a family of leaders across the state of Kentucky," Hacker said.

Leadership Kentucky, created in 1984 as a non-profit educational organization, brings together a selected group of people who possess a broad variety of leadership abilities, career accomplishments, and volunteer activities to gain insight into complex issues facing the state.

Programs include BRIGHT, Leadership Kentucky, Elevate Kentucky and New Executives to Kentucky.

Story courtesy of Morehead State Athletics (www.msueagles.com).

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Senior and Faculty art exhibit opens Sept. 8

Senior art students who did not get to show their works in the spring due to campus being closed by COVID-19 will have the opportunity to do so during a joint student/faculty art exhibition opening Tuesday, Sept. 8, at the Golding-Yang Gallery in the Claypool-Young Art Building.

Students who graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in the spring will display their works on the gallery's top floor. Graduates included in the show are James Davidson of Hazard, Brianne Hatfield of Prestonsburg, and Mardy Wells of Brandenburg. There will also be an installation on the bottom floor by Cassie Mullins of Pikeville.

MSU Art faculty members will exhibit their works as well. Juanita Dixon, lecturer in art and design, Dr. Robyn Moore, assistant professor of photography, and Dr. Jeanne Petsch, professor of art, will have their work on display in the mezzanine. Works by Adjunct Professor of Sculpture Mike Bowen, Professor of Art Elizabeth Mesa-Gaido, Professor of Art Gary Mesa-Gaido, Adam Yungbluth, visiting assistant professor of art and design, and Melissa Yungbluth, instructor of art and design and director of the Golding-Yang Gallery will be displayed on the bottom floor.

The exhibit is through Oct. 9. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Friday or by special appointment.

For more information or to book an appointment, email Gallery Director Melissa Yungbluth at myungbluth@moreheadstate.edu.

For information about programs in MSU's Department of Art and Design, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/art, email arde@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2766.

Photo Caption: BFA students who graduated in the spring will exhibit their work at the faculty/student art show opening Sept. 8. Pictured above, left to right, are: "Rebirth" by Brianne Hatfield, "Oh, to be a Child Again" by Mardy Wells, and "The end of the rainbow leads right to where you're meant to be," also by Wells.

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NEWS RELEASE

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MSU Military Initiatives hosts Suicide Awareness Walk

Morehead State University Military Initiatives is organizing a Suicide Awareness Walk that will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10. The 1.5-mile walk will begin in front of Lappin Hall and circle the campus. All participants will be required to observe social distancing guidelines.

The event was spearheaded by student-veteran organization Eagle Vets and was completely planned and led by MSU students, according to Dr. Silas Session, director of military initiatives at MSU. He said the student organizers wanted to plan an event in September since that month is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

"It's also an issue for the military but it's a general thing. They want to bring attention to everybody," Session said of the students who organized the Suicide Awareness Walk. "This is a student initiative and they really want the campus to get involved so we can make awareness of suicide to encourage people not to have any ideations or anything like that. I am proud of them."

Anyone interested in participating can sign up on the MSU Military Initiatives Facebook page (www.facebook.com/MoreheadStateEagleVets) or Instagram page (@MSU_EagleVets).

For more information on MSU Military Initiatives, contact veteranresourcecenter@moreheadstate.edu or 606-783-9267.

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Gov. Beshear appoints Arthur Walker III to Board of Regents

Gov. Andy Beshear has appointed Arthur Walker III to the Morehead State University Board of Regents.

Mr. Walker is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a degree in Civil Engineering and resides in Mt. Sterling with his wife, Lisa. He is the President of Walker Construction and Materials, LLC, a highway construction and materials company. He also serves on the board of directors for Traditional Bank and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and has been active in several other professional organizations.

“We welcome Mr. Walker to our board and look forward to him joining our team,” said Dr. Jay Morgan, president of Morehead State University.

Arthur Walker III replaces Kathy Walker, whose term has expired. Mr. Walker III shall serve for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

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Simpson's paper accepted by North American Association for Philosophy of Education

Tim Simpson, professor and chair of the Department of Foundational and Graduate Studies in Education (FGSE) at Morehead State University, along with co-author and retired Hillsdale College professor Dr. Jon Fennell, had their paper, "Epistemological Foundations of Liberal Education for Democratic Life" accepted by the North American Association for Philosophy of Education (NAAPE) to be presented in Fall 2020 via remote session.

NAAPE allows scholars worldwide that work in both education and philosophy a forum to address the practical challenges of teaching and learning.

"We seek to explore the epistemological foundations of liberal education and the purpose and meaning of education for democratic life through the work of renown philosopher of education Harry S. Broudy and world-class scientist and philosopher Michael Polanyi," Simpson said. "I am delighted to represent Morehead State University at a premier, national philosophy of education conference."

To learn more about MSU's Department of Foundational and Graduate Studies in Education, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/fgse, email fgse@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2261.

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Wallace and Parsons named to Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education student advisory group

Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) has named Morehead State University students Brent Parsons and Clay Wallace to a 22-student college student advisory group. The group was created to allow for diverse perspectives from students to address concerns and inform higher education policies. The advisory group is having his first meetings this month and will continue to meet through June 2021.

Brent Parsons is a senior political science major and global studies minor originally from Ashland. He will graduate in May 2021 with plans to continue his education in graduate school. Parsons is a member of Pi Kappa Phi and is a Delta Zeta Turtleman. He has also held many other positions in organizations including the Interfraternity Council, Student Government Association and the Residence Hall Association.

"The feeling was actually more amazing than I thought it would be," Parson said on being selected to the CPE student advisory group. "I have worked on many student organizations and have been involved since my first year of college, but I have never been as excited as I am for this opportunity. I have a real chance to be a voice for students at MSU and impact the future of Kentucky higher education."

Clay Wallace, a native of Frankfort, is a junior majoring in convergent media and minoring in film. He took a five-year gap before being able to pursue a college education and plans to bring that perspective to the student advisory group.

"There are a number of barriers present for students that don't go straight into college from high school, which are likely only to become more prominent as students take time off due to the coronavirus pandemic," Wallace said. "I hope to be a voice not only for the unique values of Morehead State students but for nontraditional students across Kentucky that are juggling their adult responsibilities and their education."

Photo: Brent Parsons (pictured) and Clay Wallace (not pictured) were selected to a 22-student college advisory group created by Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education.

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Rayburn named CASE ASAP representative

Allie Rayburn, vice president of the Morehead State University Student Alumni Ambassadors, has been named the District 3 Representative for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education Affiliated Student Advancement Programs (CASE ASAP). Rayburn was elected at the CASE ASAP District 3 Conference this past February, hosted by the University of Mississippi.

In her position, Rayburn will serve for two years and assist CASE with programming, services and resources for students and advisers involved in advancement activities. District 3 represents schools across the Southeast and all conferences. Rayburn, a native of Olive Hill, is a junior majoring in political science and public history.

“Being elected District 3 Representative for CASE ASAP has been a wonderful opportunity so far. I feel grateful to have been chosen to serve among seven other amazing student representatives throughout the country,” she said. “I’m so excited to get to serve as the connection between university advancement groups and CASE Headquarters these next two years”

CASE ASAP is comprised of student alumni associations at more than 300 CASE member institutions, including MSU. CASE ASAP's goal is “to foster and enhance student involvement in all areas of advancement - from alumni relations and communications to fundraising, marketing and related areas.”

Student Alumni Ambassadors (SAA) is a group of 30 dedicated MSU students who represent the University and serve as a link between current students and alumni. SAA members serve as the official host group of the University and the Alumni Association. While being active in the recruitment of new students and promoting Morehead State University. SAA takes an active role in major events at MSU, including Homecoming, Spring Gala, Commencement and alumni reunions. Visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu/saa to apply.

To learn more about MSU Student Alumni Ambassadors, contact MSU’s Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033, email giving@moreheadstate.edu or visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu.

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Buteyn named to ATMAE Board

Morehead State graduate student Thomas Buteyn of Somerset has been elected to serve as the student member of the board of directors for the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering (ATMAE).

Buteyn is pursuing his Master of Science degree in Engineering and Technology Management and plans to graduate in December 2022. He was nominated for the board post by Dr. Ahmad Zargari, associate dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS). He was elected by the vote of ATMAE members.

"I am honored to be voted into a role where I can be a voice for the students," Buteyn said. "I hope to gain valuable leadership experience and make lasting connections that I can call on in my future career."

ATMAE is a collegiate accrediting agency and a professional organization with more than 1,000 student and professional members. Buteyn will serve a one-year term on the organization's board, beginning in November. His responsibility will be to represent all student members of ATMAE and provide a student perspective on issues and changes the board is considering.

For more information about Morehead State's School of Engineering and Computer Science programs, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/secs, email seis@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2418.

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Wildey selected as first recipient of the Fred R. Ross Scholarship

Morehead State University has announced that Lillian Wildey is the first recipient of the Fred R. Ross Scholarship, a fund to benefit MSU students. Established earlier this year, the Fred R. Ross Scholarship provides a \$10,000 per year award to an incoming freshman who graduated from a public high school in Clermont County, Ohio.

“As a proud Clermont County resident, I truly cannot express how grateful I am to have received the Fred R. Ross Scholarship. With the help of this scholarship, I will have little to no student debt after graduation,” Wildey said. “I am so blessed to have picked such an amazing university with such an outpouring of generosity and compassion, such as Morehead State University. I know I have made the right decision by choosing Morehead to further my education.”

The scholarship was established by Fred R. Ross (67), a long-time resident of Clermont County, Ohio. After earning a bachelor’s degree in 1967 and a master’s degree in 1970 from MSU, he held multiple teaching and leadership positions in several school systems in Ohio and Kentucky. Ross served as an area coordinator and financial consultant for the Ohio Department of Education, Division of School Finance from 1999 to 2016. He also served as an adjunct professor at Xavier University in Cincinnati, teaching Ohio School Finance from 2010 to 2017. Ross retired in 2017 after devoting more than 50 years to his career in education.

“I am very pleased that Morehead State has named the first recipient of my scholarship and after speaking to her at length, I am confident that MSU’s Award Committee made a very good choice,” Ross said. “My congratulations to Ms. Lillian Wildey. I wish her continued success as she pursues her academic training.”

The recipient of the Fred R. Ross Scholarship Endowment must be an incoming freshman and graduate of a public high school from Clermont County, Ohio, with a minimum 3.2 GPA and a minimum ACT score of 24. The scholarship award amount will initially be \$10,000 per academic year. The scholarship is renewable if a 3.2 GPA and full-time status are maintained.

Students interested in applying to this scholarship, along with other privately funded scholarships managed by the MSU Foundation, should visit the online scholarship application at moreheadstate.awardspring.com.

For more information on this scholarship, or to establish your own, contact MSU’s Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033, email giving@moreheadstate.edu or visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu.

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Yang named to KDE Council

Amy Yang, a senior from the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics at Morehead State, has been selected to join the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) Commissioner's Student Advisory Council for the 2020-21 year.

The council was established to provide feedback on critical issues impacting students and schools and works with KDE staff to develop ideas to improve and transform education. The group meets with the commissioner and KDE staff, both in person and virtually, to discuss how decisions made at the state level are affecting students throughout Kentucky.

More than 140 students from across the Commonwealth applied for a position on the advisory council this year. Applications were blind scored by a panel of judges from across Kentucky. The newly selected members will serve for the 2020-21 school year. Sophomores and juniors will have the opportunity to serve again in fall 2021.

"Now more than ever, it is critically important that we have student voice present in every single decision that we make," said Interim Commissioner Kevin C. Brown. "We certainly saw that this past spring, as we relied heavily on this council to provide feedback on things like graduation, non-traditional instruction, and re-entry plans for the new school year, among many other things."

Incoming Commissioner Jason Glass, who will begin his position at KDE on Sept. 14, said he is very excited to meet with the students.

"Involving the voices of our students and empowering them in our decisions on education is critically important to me and to the future of education in Kentucky," said Glass. "I look forward to working with these exceptional young people as we work to imagine what school could be for the Commonwealth."

Membership consists of at least two seats from each of the seven Kentucky Board of Education districts; four at-large student members; one student from the Kentucky School for the Blind, one student for the Kentucky School for the Deaf and student members enrolled in a career and technical education pathway.

"Amy being on the council brings Craft Academy to the table with Kentucky Department of Education leaders that will help promote the cause for providing more services for gifted students in valuing their voice," said Dr. Carol Christian, director of the Craft Academy. "Opportunities like this develop leadership skills. It takes a

community of leaders to prepare our next generation of leaders, solution seekers and problem solvers. Amy Yang will be a great addition.”

The first virtual meeting of the 2020-2021 school year was held on July 29.

For information on the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/craft-academy, email craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2093.

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2020 Talent Search summer mentoring a huge success

Morehead State's Educational Talent Search program had a successful summer of virtual programming to keep recent high school graduates engaged and prepare them to transition to college.

"Keeping our seniors engaged during the summer months is a challenge but maintaining focus during a World Pandemic has proven to be even more challenging," said Camille Hamilton, TRiO Academic coordinator. Hoping to prevent the "summer melt," when students who have applied to, been accepted by, and made a deposit to a college, but did not attend that college. Talent Search focused on weekly engagement through text messages to connect with students and parents about upcoming postsecondary scenarios.

For 13 weeks beginning in May, Talent Search students received a prompt via text message. Students replied by asking questions and their counselor responded with answers.

"First-generation students are much more at risk of falling into the 'melt' because of a lack of support to further their education. Utilizing social media allowed Talent Search staff to keep communication open for all our students," Hamilton said. She added that in 2020, the summer mentoring program had more participation than any other year before.

Each month, a drawing was held to give away a gift card. Students were required to respond to the weekly mentoring program messages to be entered into the drawing. At the end of the summer, a grand prize winner was drawn from the entire group of participants in all three months of mentoring, and that person received an iPad. The following students were winners:

- Makenna Rose from Elliott County High School (May gift card winner).
- Promise Cross from Rowan County Senior High School (June gift card winner).
- Kaley Collins from Morgan County High School (July gift card winner). Natalie Crase from Magoffin County High School (grand prize winner).

For more information on Educational Talent Search, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/ets, email s.williams@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2977.

Photo Caption: MSU Freshman Natalie Crase from Magoffin County was the winner of a new iPad for her participation in the Educational Talent Search summer mentoring program.

###

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NEWS RELEASE

September 11, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Three Craft Academy students named National Merit semifinalists

Three students from the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics at Morehead State have been named semifinalists in the 66th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million that will be offered next spring. Approximately 16,000 nationwide are in semifinal competition.

Students from the Academy who were named semifinalists are:

- Matthew Edward Louis from Taylorsville, Spencer County High School.
- Kyle Andrew Reed from Frankfort, Western Hills High School.
- William Douglas White from Manchester.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the competition's finalist level. More than 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and more than half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title. Winners will be announced in the spring.

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics is a dual-credit residential high school for academically exceptional Kentucky students. The Craft Academy's purpose is to meet the unique educational needs of academically gifted and talented high school juniors and seniors in the Commonwealth. The academic rigor of the Craft Academy challenges students to excel at their highest level through project-based STEM+X courses and hands-on learning experiences, with emphasis on innovation, design and creativity, and civic and regional engagement.

For more information about the Craft Academy, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/craft-academy, email craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2093.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 14, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State moves up in rankings among universities in South for second consecutive year

At Morehead State University, Eagles Always Soar...and so have the university's rankings over the past two years. Morehead State University has been recognized for the 17th consecutive year as one of the top public universities in the South in the 2021 edition of "America's Best Colleges" by U.S. News & World Report. MSU became a Top 20 institution after ranking 19th in the Top Public Regional Universities-South division in 2020. For 2021, MSU moved up two spots, ranking 17th on that list. MSU also made the publication's list as one of the top public regional universities in the South for social mobility.

"We are deeply committed to advancing Morehead State's standing as a public regional university in the South, all for the benefit of our students, their families, and the Commonwealth," said Dr. Joseph A. (Jay) Morgan, MSU president. "This shows our strength, and we are getting stronger."

The rankings emphasize acceptance rates, graduation rates, admissions selectivity, alumni giving rates, and small class sizes. Class size and personal attention have always been strengths of MSU thanks to our 16:1 student-faculty ratio that allows for more significant one-on-one time with the University's experienced and dedicated faculty and staff. MSU provides a variety of services and resources to guide and support each student through their college experience.

The rankings include public and private institutions that grant bachelor's and master's degrees in 12 states of the South, including Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Arkansas and Louisiana.

"Our students are accepted into professional schools, including medical, dental, veterinary, law and pharmacy programs, at rates well above state and national averages. This is just one indicator of the high-quality education that students receive here," Dr. Morgan noted. "We are pleased that others recognize Morehead State's quality and value. We take pride in keeping this quality academic experience affordable for those in our region and beyond."

The rankings will be published in the magazine's "Best Colleges 2021" guidebook. It will be available in early October.

For more information on Morehead State University, our quality academic programs and personal student support, visit www.moreheadstate.edu.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 16, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Constitution Day live reading to be held Sept. 18

A live reading of the U.S. Constitution will be held Friday, Sept. 18, at 10 a.m. at the Little Bell Tower in honor of Constitution Day.

Students and faculty members will read portions of the nation's founding document. Approximately 25 students are expected to participate. The students will be legal studies majors and students from the general education course, Law and Individual Rights. Joe Dunman, assistant professor and coordinator of the legal studies program, will lead the event.

"This event is held every year to commemorate Constitution Day, Sept. 17, and reaffirm our commitment to the principles and goals of our country's founding document," Dunman said. "I anticipate significant student participation."

Social distancing will be observed, and attendees are asked to wear a mask to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The event is sponsored by the Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies and Legal Studies. To learn more about programs in the department, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/hpil, email hpil@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2655.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 16, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Harris named recipient of Gore Scholarship

Makayla Harris has been named the 2020 recipient of the Jerry Gore African American Heritage Scholarship. She is a graduate of Montgomery County High School majoring in social work.

“Receiving this scholarship has been a huge help in allowing me to pay for college without taking out student loans. I am very grateful,” Harris said.

The Jerry Gore African American Heritage Scholarship was established in 2018 in memorial recognition for MSU alumnus and retiree, Dr. Jerry Gore (76). He served the University for 27 years, advocating for the preservation of African American Heritage, and retired as MSU’s minority student affairs director.

The scholarship is awarded to students who have completed at least two semesters at MSU and have maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. Special consideration is given to students who are active in campus diversity initiatives, clubs or groups.

“Jerry Gore was a guiding light that gave hope to a multitude of students for many years at Morehead State University. His legacy of love and giving carries on through the Jerry Gore African American Heritage Scholarship,” said scholarship representative Ken Alexander (83, 85). “I am honored and so very proud to see the scholarship helping another generation of students.”

Students interested in applying to this scholarship, along with other privately funded scholarships managed by the MSU Foundation, should visit the online scholarship application at moreheadstate.awardspring.com.

For more information on this scholarship, or to establish your own, contact MSU’s Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033, email giving@moreheadstate.edu or visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 18, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU mourns passing of honors program namesake George “Mac” Luckey

Dr. George “Mac” Luckey Jr., MSU professor emeritus and namesake of the George M. Luckey Academic Honors Program and husband of Dr. Sue Luckey, died Tuesday, Sept. 15. He was 85.

A native of Paris, Tennessee, Luckey joined Morehead State’s philosophy faculty in 1961. Luckey was active on campus, serving as a faculty advisor to the Open Forum Club, the Blue Key Honors Society and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, a professional music fraternity. He also served on several departmental, college, and university committees.

In 1990, Luckey was named director of MSU’s Center for Critical Thinking and the Academic Honors Program. He was awarded MSU’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 1991. He retired in 2003 after 42 years at MSU. That same year, he was awarded Professor Emeritus status, and the Honors program was named after him, commemorating his many years of devoted service to the University. In 2008, Mac and his wife were awarded the honorary titles of Doctor of Public Service at Morehead State University.

Visitation will be Saturday, Sept. 19, from noon to 2 p.m., with funeral services held at 2 p.m. at Northcutt and Son Home for Funerals. Interment will be in the mausoleum at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Morehead.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Luckey Academic Honors Program Fund. Contributions are tax deductible. To make a contribution, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/giving or mail contributions to the MSU Foundation, George M. Luckey Academic Honors Program Fund, 121 E. Second St., Morehead, KY 40351.

To sign the virtual guestbook, visit www.northcuttandson.com.

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NEWS RELEASE

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Elgazzar to present paper on machine learning

Dr. Heba Elgazzar, assistant professor of computer science at MSU, will present a paper on machine learning at the 2020 International Internet of Things (IoT), Electronics and Mechatronics Conference later this month.

The paper, "Stock Market Prediction using Text-based Machine Learning," was co-authored by Elgazzar and recent MSU computer science graduate Tristan Jordan of Olive Hill. The research aims to design machine learning algorithms to predict changes in stock prices for an unidentified company. The algorithm will use forum posts of users with varying levels of involvement with the company of focus. The proposed algorithm to make these predictions will use a recurrent neural network (RNN) that will be able to analyze patterns in word use and order. It will place reactions to forum posts into a category based upon expected price movement over various lengths of time.

"I highly appreciate the encouragement and the support for my research activities from the college dean and the associate dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science," Elgazzar said.

In addition to being presented at the conference, the paper will also be published in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Xplore library.

For information about programs in MSU's School of Engineering and Computer Science, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/secs, email seis@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2418.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 22, 2020
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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Regents to hold special meeting Sept. 24

Morehead State's Board of Regents will hold a special meeting Thursday, Sept. 24, at 9 a.m. via WebEx teleconference.

The board will pass a resolution of commendation for former regent and board chair Kathy Walker, and the newest regent, Arthur E. Walker III, will be sworn in at the meeting. In addition, the board will elect a chair, vice chair and secretary, and will appoint a treasurer.

In other action, the board:

- Will vote to designate MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan as the University's fiscal officer.
- Will hear an update on the 2020-21 University health insurance plan.
- Will vote to authorize debt restructuring of certain outstanding bonds and leases.

The board will hold a special meeting and work session Friday, Oct. 16. The audit committee will also meet on that date.

For more information, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/bor.

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NEWS RELEASE

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Eagle Impact initiative aims to increase voter awareness

Morehead State athletes are working to raise awareness and increase participation in the upcoming November election thanks to the Eagle Impact initiative.

The idea developed after student-athletes reached out to the administration, expressing an interest in being more engaged in social issues.

“After discussions with representatives from all of our teams a few initiatives were identified categorized in four areas: support, educate, promote, act,” said Matt Schabert, MSU Athletics media relations director. “Our goal is to provide our students support as they strive to make a positive impact on their campus, local, and hometown communities.”

The initiative is a joint effort of Eagle Athletics, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), MSU and the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC). All OVC schools are coordinating their efforts as part of the OVC for Change campaign.

Athletes will raise awareness and encourage more students to register and vote in the election by encouraging all those eligible to register to vote, along with a voter education campaign to help newly registered voters make informed choices. Other planned activities include:

- Celebration of diversity throughout the year during home events, student-athlete spotlights, and informational programming.
- Discussion groups to share personal stories and learn about different experiences.
- Supporting established university programming promoting diversity and inclusion.
- Engaging in civic activities.

“Our top priority as an athletic department is to educate and develop our student-athletes,” Schabert said. “We are proud of the active role our students are playing in making a difference.”

To learn more about the Eagle Impact initiative, visit <https://msueagles.com/sports/2020/9/16/eagle-impact.aspx>.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 22, 2020
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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

O'Keefe awarded collaborative NSF grant

Morehead State University is pleased to announce that Dr. Jen O'Keefe, professor of geology and Science Education, and Dr. Matthew Pound, senior lecturer in geography and environmental science at Northumbria University, UK, were awarded collaborative research grants through the National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Geoscience (GEO) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) in the amounts of \$646,855 and £299,947 (\$376,988), respectively, for their three-year project, "NSF/Geo-NERC: Fungi in a Warmer World."

This joint endeavor between O'Keefe, Pound and their collaborators Dr. Sophie Warny of the Center for Excellence in Palynology (CENEX) at Louisiana State University, and Dr. Noelia Nuñez Otaño, CONICET researcher at the Laboratory of Plains Geology (FCyT-UADER) in Diamante, Argentina, will provide foundational information on global fungal distribution patterns before, during, and after a warmer-than-present period of geologic time, known as the Middle Miocene Climatic Optimum (MMCO). The data will be used to model fungal community and ecosystem responses to changing environments. A team comprising of Morehead State undergraduates, a CENEX graduate student, post-doctoral researchers at MSU and NU, and the investigators will be assembled, thus linking small rural universities with flagship research institutions through student research and tiered mentoring opportunities.

"I'm delighted to have this opportunity to showcase the talents of MSU's undergraduates while studying a vital piece of the global change puzzle: how will fungi, both foundation and the bane of much of our food chain, react to changing conditions," O'Keefe said. "Our research students, to be recruited from geology and biology, will be integral parts of all stages of the project, and will have the opportunity to conduct science on a global level. We know our students are amazing – it's time the rest of the world does."

For more information about the award, [visit www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2015813&HistoricalAwards=false](https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2015813&HistoricalAwards=false).

For more information about MSU's Department of Physics, Earth Science and Space Systems Engineering, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/phes, email phes@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2381.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 22, 2020
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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Adams writes blog about effective online instruction

Dr. Annie Adams, Professor of English at Morehead State, has published an essay about effective online instruction on an Inside Higher Education blog.

The essay, “Fourth Class,” was published on the blog, “University of Venus,” which features the writing of Gen-X women in higher education. In it, Adams discusses some of the challenges small regional universities like MSU and community colleges face when dealing with online instruction. She said there are several areas of resistance that inhibit institutions’ ability to use online learning to its full potential.

“Administrators looking only to cost-cut resist properly investing in technological infrastructure, and faculty leery of cost-cutting moves (and being replaced by robots) are suspicious,” Adams said. “Additionally, there are student learning outcomes that cannot be achieved remotely (a Zoom live stream is only an approximation of live theatre, you can’t draw a patient’s blood through a computer screen, etc.) and faculty who need to help their students achieve these outcomes often see ‘online’ as a distraction—which it is if remote learning on campuses doesn’t start from a consideration of student learning outcomes.”

Another point Adams brings up in the article is the need for faculty members to have genuine connections with students. She said online platforms provide a variety of ways to connect with students, and instructors must reach out to students and build connections.

“Communication fosters connection. Students need to know there’s a live person at the other end of the screen,” Adams said. She added she believes every institute of higher education should be a digital hub for its community, and there are several steps MSU and others are taking to accomplish that.

“The first step is to offer high-quality online courses. The next step, for our institution in particular, is to provide training and access in online technology for area teachers. We need to prep them for the classrooms they will face (which means being aware of the problems of the digital divide and potential ways to mitigate it),” she said. “We also just need to do more with every student on campus to make them digitally literate. There are simple, “work ready” elements we could embed in general education, particularly because all faculty and students here have access to the full Microsoft 365 suite.”

Adams also discussed access inequities among students, saying there are several things schools can do to make sure students have access to the resources they need to optimize online learning.

“Options would be to provide hot spots, scholarships for technology, and to start working on making courses and our teaching tools mobile device friendly because phones are often the only access some of our students have,” Adams said. “Bigger picture: try for grants for regional development funds and continue to bombard the state legislature with requests for equity in terms of education.”

To read Adams’ essay, visit <https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/university-venus/fourth-class>.

To learn about programs in MSU’s Department of English, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/english, email english@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-9448.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 22, 2020
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Reading project helps MSU students and working teachers

As COVID-19 continues to impact schools, one MSU instructor has found a way to help her students and help students, teachers and parents in area public school systems.

Shawn Justice, instructor of education, was trying to develop creative ways to help students in her Children's Literature and Materials class get their required field experience hours virtually this fall.

"I have had to really think outside of the box about how to give my students the quality experiences they need and still meet all the course requirements," Justice said. "Education is changing, so I thought the structure of the field experience hours probably should look different, too."

Justice's students are learning about children's books that are suitable for instruction and were asked to choose either a book that had received a children's book award or a book by an award-winning author. Students were required to join the Kentucky Virtual Library and Epic Books, which are online databases of children's books. They could also visit the Camden-Carroll Library or their local library to select a book. Students recorded themselves reading the books and were graded and given feedback on the readings. Justice said the assignment benefitted her students, not only by teaching them how to select books that are well-written for instructional use but by teaching them how to adapt to the changing landscape of education.

"I think we are in a very exciting time for education. It is messy and painful and a struggle at times, but all growth and progress are those things," Justice said. "Education students right now are getting in on the ground floor of what education will look like in the future."

Approximately 60 pre-service education students participated in the assignment, and Justice said she's received more than 200 responses to a Facebook post she made offering the recordings for teachers to use in their classrooms. The videos will be shared with more than 20 school districts across the state, as well as two public libraries and several parents who are teaching their children at home.

Justice graduated from MSU in 1991 with a degree in elementary education K-4.

To learn more about the program or to request links to the videos, contact Justice at tsjustice@moreheadstate.edu.

For information about MSU's Volgenau College of Education programs, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/education, email adnorman@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2162.

Photo Caption: Education student Vash-ti Hudson of Milford, Ohio, reads "Officer Buckle and Gloria" in a video assignment for Shawn Justice's Children's Literature and Materials class.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 23, 2020
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MSU hosts ‘Dolores’ screening for Hispanic Heritage Month

As part of Morehead State University’s celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Eagle Diversity Education Center (EDEC) will be presenting a virtual film screening of “Dolores” at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24.

“Dolores” tells the story of Dolores Huerta, a lesser known but pivotal political activist in American history who, along with Cesar Chavez, co-founded the first farmworkers union in America.

Dr. Cory Clark, assistant director of EDEC, said he is a fan of films and discussions because it provides a way to learn and process what they have seen with others. He also said at a time when America is seeing a lot of political activism and civil unrest, screening “Dolores” seemed even more appropriate.

“It kind of fits perfectly in a great way to kind of honor her but also educate people about what she’s done,” Clark said.

To attend this virtual event, visit Eagle Link at moreheadstate.campuslabs.com/engage.

To learn more about the Eagle Diversity Education Center, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/edec, email edec@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-9569.

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NEWS RELEASE

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MSU Career and Internship Fair goes virtual this fall

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Morehead State University students and potential employers will not shake hands or meet in-person at this fall's MSU Career and Internship Fair. This month, MSU's Office of Career Services will host its very first-ever Fall 2020 Virtual Career and Internship Fair from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, through Eagle CareerNet.

"Career Services is excited to transition to a virtual career and internship fair to continue to connect MSU students and alumni with employers and graduate programs while ensuring everyone's safety," said Megan Boone, director of Career Services. "We are able to offer a unique virtual fair experience through Eagle CareerNet. Students will have the opportunity to outshine the competition by interacting with the recruiter via an individual video chat or a more general video chat."

Career fair attendees can set up a virtual chat profile through Eagle CareerNet, including a professional headshot and a resume. Students are encouraged to go ahead and click "attend as a Job Seeker" to start exploring the event and see the organizations that want to meet them. When you click the "star" icon for employers and graduate schools, they will show at the top of the list on the day of the event. You can see all the registered organizations during the event, and you can either initiate one-to-one chats with recruiters or join group chats.

The significant advantage to employers is the reduction in cost due to lack of travel. It also lets employers meet online students and those at regional campuses who might not participate in a face-to-face event. Employers can quickly evaluate a candidate's communication skills and ability to work in a virtual environment.

"The Virtual Career and Internship Fair is a new experience for employers and students and our team has spent a lot of time working to ensure the best experience possible for employers and students alike," Boone said. "We look forward to hearing about the connections that are made through the event."

Prior to the Virtual Career and Internship Fair, attendees should make sure to research employers, test-out their technology beforehand and select an appropriate location. Considerations like appropriate dress, a prepared introduction and having a resume ready for distribution should also be considered. More detailed tips are available at www.moreheadstate.edu/career.

Thanks to MSU's Office of Career Services, MSU students have access to numerous online resources geared toward their success that takes place before the Virtual Career and Internship Fair:

Practice introducing yourself to employers at the fair using the mock interview software Interview Link in Eagle CareerNet and perfect your presentation. You can find Interview Link within the Resources section of

Eagle CareerNet. Search for “Career Fair Introduction Practice” or access the practice question at <https://morehead-csm.symplicity.com/interview/app/mock-interviews/2588a9d255e48bbdf5b9ea34886b48d1>

Become a Pro at Virtual Career Fairs & Interviews Event

- Noon to 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 22
- Eagle CareerNet (<https://morehead-csm.symplicity.com/events/BECOMEAPROVCF>)

Resume Blitz Event

- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 23 (hosted by Lexington Division of Police and Vector Marketing)
- Thursday, Sept. 24 (featuring Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Northwestern Mutual and Kalkreuth Roofing & Sheet Metal)

Access the Microsoft Teams event at <https://bit.ly/32BycYX>

Students can get info at <https://morehead-csm.symplicity.com/events/Fall2020>. The Career Services staff is also available for individual resume reviews and appointments to make sure you are ready to put your best foot forward at the event.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/career, email careerservices@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2233.

###

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NEWS RELEASE

September 23, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Compton named director of Maysville-Mason County Area Chamber of Commerce

Kaci Compton (12) was recently named executive director of the Maysville-Mason County Area Chamber of Commerce.

“There are so many wonderful people involved in making the Maysville-Mason County Area a better place to live, work and play,” Compton said. “I struggle to put into words how blessed I feel to have the opportunity to work alongside them.”

Compton, originally from Manchester, Ohio, graduated from Morehead State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Government and a minor in Spanish. She said she always enjoyed history, but it was the summer between her freshman and sophomore year at MSU, where she accompanied her father and his colleagues on a lobbying trip to Washington, D.C., that stoked her passion for government.

“It was during that trip I got my first real taste of the political process and my career plans changed immediately,” she said.

Under the guidance of MSU political science professors Dr. James Robert Masterson and the late Dr. Michael Hail, Compton pursued her interest in government in and out of the classroom. She participated in the Undergraduate Research Fellowship program and MSU’s Celebration of Student Scholarship. She was also a member of the Societas Pro Legibus Pre-Law Society. Compton said her relationships with her professors only added fuel to her career ambitions.

“Without a doubt, it was the support of my professors that helped me the most,” Compton said. “Those relationships carried over post-grad when I would consider career changes. Dr. Hail was always available—even years after my graduation—to offer sound advice and support when I reached out to discuss new opportunities.”

Before accepting her current position at the Maysville-Mason County Area Chamber of Commerce, she spent most of her professional career in government relations. She worked as a field representative for Congressman Brad Wenstrup (OH-2) for five years before joining Fluor-BWXT as a communications specialist focusing on government communications. Her friend let her know about the job opening at the Chamber after she moved to Maysville.

“I felt that my previous experiences and desire to serve our community would qualify me as a decent candidate for the role,” Compton said. “After meeting with our executive committee and discussing the position, I knew it was a perfect fit.”

In her new role, Compton said she plans to do everything she can to support members of the Maysville-Mason County Area Chamber of Commerce and ensure they can flourish in uncertain times.

“We are all working in an entirely new and rapidly changing environment,” she said. “The Chamber will be focused on providing the best resources and supportive infrastructure for our members to ensure they are able to not only navigate this challenging climate but grow through it and come out on the other side even better than they were before.”

To learn more about programs in MSU’s Department of History, Philosophy, Global Studies and Legal Studies, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/hppgl, email hpil@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2655.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 23, 2020
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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Every day is SUN-day at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex

Morehead State University is now harnessing the sun's energy to power its newest demonstration barn, located at the northwest side of the MSU Farm's property.

Fifty-five solar panels have been placed in the pasture field approximately 75 feet from the barn. Each panel is 39" wide and 76" long while weighing approximately 50 lbs. They are 365-watt models generating more than 20 kilowatts. The panels' purpose: to power the lights, fans and water heating elements in the barn—eliminating the need for traditional electric power.

The idea originated more than a year ago when Morehead State alumnus John Cotten (87), who manages Wilderness Trace Solar in Danville, contacted Department of Agricultural Sciences Chair Dr. Joyce Stubbs (79, 81). He not only wanted to bring solar power to the farm, but to do so at little to no cost to the institution.

"MSU has given so much to me, I just wanted to give something back," Cotten said. "I've known Joyce for a long time and I'm excited to help her and the University with this project."

"I was immediately intrigued by the idea, especially after John told me that he had an investor," Stubbs said. "He lived in Morehead for many years, is very familiar with this area and the farm and was excited about helping us access solar energy."

The project's investor is Gary Booth, a native of Wolfe County and former executive with Cincinnati-based Proctor and Gamble. Most recently, he founded Starshine Energy, a photoelectric utility providing clean energy to eastern Kentucky.

Booth's investment is \$100,000 on a 20-year contract, with the farm agreeing to pay \$3,000 annually. However, with access to private funds to cover that cost, there will be no University money spent on the project.

So how much money will be saved by incorporating solar? That's still to be determined, but if all goes as planned, the savings should be significant enough to pique the interest of many other Kentucky farmers.

"Yes, we're hoping this will encourage many of our area farmers to incorporate renewable energy into their operations," said MSU Farm Manager Joe Fraley (94). "They can get cost-share money to help install, plus there's tax credits available. There's definitely potential for long term savings."

The barn has a bedded pack area, which includes 18" deep of sawdust mixed with manure that is cultivated daily. The fans push air to the ground to dry the mixture, providing the animals a comfortable place to lay. There's also a bonus use for the panels as their eight steel beams provide a shade for cattle in the field.

“To our knowledge, this will be the first setup of its kind in bulls and steers,” Cotten said. “I’m very excited about it because it potentially opens up a whole new market for us with even the most remote of farms utilizing this technology.”

The barn will be completely off-the-grid for most of the year, powered only by the solar panels. The only exception may come periodically during the winter months when increasing cloud cover blocks the sun’s rays. Should that happen, a gas generator will be used as a backup power supply.

Cotten first considered solar energy for MSU in 2008 with the idea of powering a greenhouse. Now a dozen years later, the dream is becoming reality—and with amazing potential.

“The goal is to bring Eastern Kentucky into the 22nd century,” Cotten added. “That’s Mr. Booth’s vision and mine too. And Morehead State is playing an important role.”

For more information on the Department of Agricultural Sciences, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/agriculture. The email address is agsi@moreheadstate.edu or you can contact them by phone at 606-783-2662.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 24, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU Theatre opens 2020-21 season with virtual performance of ‘Agnes of God’

Morehead State University’s School of Creative Arts will kick off the 2020-21 theatrical season with new shows and in new ways.

MSU Theatre will present a virtual production of John Pielmeier’s “Agnes of God.” The recording, filmed at the Lucille Caudill Little Theatre, is available for viewing at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, through Saturday, Sept. 26, and Thursday, Oct. 1, through Saturday, Oct. 3. Performances will also be available for view on Sundays at 2 p.m. on Sept. 27 and Oct. 4. The recording of this production runs without intermission.

In “Agnes of God,” Dr. Martha Livingstone (Erin Hiler, junior from Berea), a court-appointed psychiatrist, is sent to evaluate Sister Agnes (Bailey Hobbs, senior from Shepherdsville), a young nun whose infant was found strangled. With the overbearing opinions from Mother Superior (Alyssa “Lou” Payton, sophomore from Lexington), Dr. Livingstone is to determine if Agnes is guilty for murder or innocent by insanity.

Tickets are \$11 for the general public, \$6 for seniors and non-MSU students, and free with ID to MSU students. Thanks to the MSU University Store, online purchase of tickets will be available. The MSU Theatre box office is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. In lieu of a ticket, an email with a link, password and playbill will be sent to patrons before the show starts. Go to www.bookstore.moreheadstate.edu and click on “Theatre and Dance Tickets” under the “Merchandise” tab for online payment. Patrons should forward their confirmation email to mtdboxoffice@moreheadstate.edu to verify receiving a link and password.

Reservations are required for all MSU Theatre productions and can be made by calling 606-783-2170 or emailing mtdboxoffice@moreheadstate.edu.

To learn more about MSU’s theatre program, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/theatre.

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NEWS RELEASE

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Werline named CEO of New Vista

Morehead State alumna Dee Werline (91) has been promoted to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of New Vista, the Community Mental Health Center providing mental health, substance use and intellectual and developmental disability services to 25,000 children, adults and families in 17 central Kentucky counties.

Werline earned a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology at MSU and has worked in behavioral health care for more than three decades. Before being named CEO of New Vista, she served as deputy commissioner at the Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. She also previously served as vice president of administration at New Vista from 2012-16.

“Being chosen for this position as CEO of New Vista has been both exciting and humbling,” Werline said. “I have spent my 30-year career to date learning and experiencing every aspect of behavioral health service provision to prepare for this opportunity. I have always had a passion for community mental health. I consider it the opportunity of a lifetime and believe it is a privilege to serve in this role.”

Werline said she hopes to further New Vista’s mission in serving the communities of central Kentucky and to foster a work culture and environment for staff to build and grow their skills and careers. She said MSU’s clinical psychology master’s program gave her the knowledge and skills to excel in the behavioral health services field.

“The program at MSU was clearly focused on preparing well-rounded clinicians to provide mental health services to citizens throughout the Commonwealth. Hence, I learned all the clinical skills necessary to achieve licensure in my chosen field, the analytical skills, and respect and drive for continued learning that helped advance my career goals,” Werline said. “Through my practicums and internship opportunities, I was able to get a well-rounded clinical experience in a variety of mental health settings in both very rural and more urban areas of Kentucky.

“The entire clinical psychology program at MSU provides an excellent environment for learning and growing that prepares its graduates well. The coursework was stringent and pertinent to the work that lay ahead.”

To learn more about graduate programs at Morehead State, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/gradschool.

For information on programs in MSU’s Department of Psychology, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/psychology, email Department Chair Dr. Greg Corso at g.corso@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2981.

Photo Credit: The Lane Report

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Board of Regents welcomes new member, elects officers

Morehead State's Board of Regents held a special called meeting Thursday, Sept. 24, at 9 a.m. via WebEx teleconference.

The board passed a resolution of commendation for former regent and board chair Kathy Walker, and the newest regent, Arthur E. Walker III, was sworn in at the meeting.

The Board of Regents elected Eric Howard as chair and Sanford Holbrook as vice chair. Mary Fister-Tucker was appointed as treasurer, and Jacqueline Graves was elected secretary. Officers of the board are elected to a one-year term.

In other action, the board voted to designate MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan as the University's fiscal officer and to authorize debt restructuring of certain outstanding bonds and leases. They also heard an update on the 2020-21 University health insurance plan.

The board will hold a special called meeting and work session Friday, Oct. 16. The audit committee will also meet on that date.

For more information, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/bor.



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NEWS RELEASE

September 28, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Morehead Woman's Club scholarship awards two scholarships

The Morehead Woman's Club Scholarship provides annual scholarships to full-time incoming freshmen who are graduates of Rowan County Senior High School (RCSHS) or Lakeside Christian Academy. This year, the organization selected two recipients, Riley Hall and Riley Thompson. Both Hall and Thompson are graduates of RCSHS.

Riley Hall is a nursing major with a career goal to become a certified nurse-midwife.

"I've never known if I would be able to attend college due to the financial hardships that my family has fought through," Hall said. "Because of this, I have always strived to succeed in my education so that I could take care of my own family one day. This scholarship serves as many things for me, some of those being reassurance and comfort but perhaps, most importantly, as a sense of hope for my future."

Riley Thompson is a biomedical sciences major with a career goal of becoming a physician's assistant.

"I'm so grateful to have been awarded this scholarship," Thompson said. "Being selected by the women leaders of this community is such an honor. This scholarship will help me achieve my goals, as well as give me faith and encouragement in myself. "

The Morehead Woman's Club was founded in 1909 by members of the Shakespearean Study Group. The first president of the club and one of the founders was Cora Wilson Stewart. She was also a pioneer in adult literacy and founder of the "Moonlight Schools." The Morehead Woman's Club is the oldest service organization in the Morehead/Rowan County community, and they are dedicated to community service.

Students interested in applying for this scholarship and other privately funded scholarships managed by the MSU Foundation, should visit the online scholarship application at moreheadstate.awardspring.com.

For more information on this scholarship, or to establish your own, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033, email giving@moreheadstate.edu or visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu.

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NEWS RELEASE

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Eagle alum Allie Johnston named to Delta Zeta 35 Under 35 list

Morehead State alumna Allie Johnston (14) was recently honored by the Delta Zeta (DZ) Sorority by being named to their annual 35 Under 35 list.

Launched in 2018, Delta Zeta's 35 Under 35 recognition program highlights outstanding young professionals who have achieved success by making a significant impact in their industry before the age of 35. Candidates of this national recognition are members who have demonstrated leadership, initiative and dedication to their careers, are motivated by challenges, serve as volunteers in their communities and are role models for their peers.

"I have no idea who nominated me, I think that was incredibly thoughtful of them," Johnston said. "That nomination was such a surprise to me and I was excited about it!"

After earning her bachelor's in communication at MSU, Johnston earned her Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Louisville, and now works as the family services manager at Neighborhood House, a community center that has been in Louisville for 124 years and offers child and youth development, family coaching, an emergency food bank and senior services.

"I chose this career because I always knew I wanted to work with people. I also always knew I wanted to work in nonprofits. I feel like life is too short to not be doing something you love every day, I have been super fortunate that I get to love what I do and who I do it with my whole career so far," Johnston said.

During her time in Delta Zeta, Johnston served as MSU'S Kappa Tau Chapter president and vice president of recruiting and said the leadership skills she gained from her involvement have helped her throughout her career. While she learned many useful skills as a DZ, she said her fondest memories are of spending time with her sorority sisters.

"My favorite memories though have to be just getting to spend time together with my sisters, driving around town, movie nights, formals, etc.," Johnston said, adding being a part of DZ gave her the full college experience.

"I left Morehead knowing I did the whole thing, I lived every experience, took advantage of every opportunity, learned so much in and out of the classroom, made friends, and have no regrets. To the students who are incoming, going back, or thinking about Morehead, that is what I would encourage them to do; it was worth every minute."

To learn more about fraternity and sorority life at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/fsl.

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NEWS RELEASE

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Rayburn earns 2020 ISTE Arts and Technology Network Creativity Award

Josh Rayburn, a doctoral candidate in Morehead State University's Doctor of Education in Educational Technology program and District STEM Learning Coach for Fayette County Public Schools, was honored with the 2020 International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Arts and Technology Network Creativity Award.

"I feel like this award represents me as a whole," Rayburn said. "I am a member of ISTE and submitted my material, not thinking I would win. I am very excited about this award and proud to be one of the few that have won the awards."

Originally from Dry Ridge, now a resident of Lexington, Rayburn said he knew from an early age he wanted to be someone who shapes people the same way his favorite teachers shaped him.

"I had great teachers growing up that made a huge impact on me and my life," he said. "I knew I wanted to have an impact on other people, as well."

Rayburn's interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) overlapped as he figured out ways to incorporate music and the arts into other classrooms. His passion for music led him to him earn bachelor's and master's degrees in music before earning an education specialist degree, all from Eastern Kentucky University. He said he was sitting in a Kentucky Society for Technology in Education session led by MSU Associate Professor of Education Technology Dr. Jeannie Justice, who mentioned the Doctor of Education in Educational Technology program.

"I liked that the program was all online and I could still work and complete this program," Rayburn said.

Rayburn has worked on earning this doctorate while working for Fayette County Public Schools for the past 10 years. For the last two years, he has served as a District STEM Learning Coach.

"My job now helps teachers see that you can provide hands-on instructions through Design Thinking and Engineering and STEM," he said. "My degree has helped me design better instruction using technology. I have also been provided with different tools to assess technology and provide help for teachers and my district when looking at different technology tools."

Rayburn is honored to have received the ISTE Arts and Technology Network Creativity Award this year and wants to continue to use technology to help both students and teachers.

“My favorite part about my job is seeing students shine and light up when they are successful,” he said. “I also love seeing teachers smile when their students shine on the bus and using STEM in their class.”

Morehead State University’s Volgenau College of Education offers a reduced tuition rate to all Kentucky school teachers and other educators enrolled in graduate courses within the Volgenau College of Education. For more details on the reduced tuition offer, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/kyeducators.

For more information about MSU’s Volgenau College of Education and its programs, call 606-783-2162 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/education.

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NEWS RELEASE

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MSU recognizes faculty and staff through Distinguished Service Awards

Morehead State University is recognizing faculty and staff for their service and teaching by announcing the 2020 recipients of MSU's Distinguished Service Awards.

Dr. Christopher Beckham, assistant professor of education, was honored with the Distinguished Faculty Service Award. Dr. David Eisenhour, professor of biology, was given the Distinguished Teacher Award. Toni Hobbs, director of creative and branding services, was awarded the Distinguished Staff Service Award. Dr. Gary O'Dell, professor of geology, received the Distinguished Researcher Award.

Dr. Beckham has served on many committees at the department, college and university level, including the General Education Council, First Year Seminar Committee, Teacher Education Council and the Research and Creative Productions Committee. In his community, Beckham has served on the boards of the Fleming County Public Library, the Fleming County Little League, the District Council for the Fleming County Cooperative Extension Service and the Superintendent's Council of Fleming County Schools, to name a few. He also has been a volunteer bell ringer for the Salvation Army and is an active member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. He has won the SGA (Student Government Association) Student Choice Award and the Greek Life Faculty Member of the Year. He and his children enjoy raising hay, ponies, chickens and lots of produce on their Fleming County farm.

Dr. David Eisenhour earned an M.S. from the University of Tennessee in 1993 and a Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, in 1997, both in zoology. He began teaching at MSU in August 1997 and has been a professor since 2008. Eisenhour teaches courses in General Biology, Zoology, Human Anatomy, Comparative Anatomy, Ichthyology and Mammalogy, among others. His mostly lab-intensive courses involve hands-on activities where he actively engages students in dissections or sampling fishes and mammals in their natural habitats. His research focuses on freshwater fishes and includes studies in natural history, conservation biology, evolution and zoogeography. These studies have led to about 25 publications, several of which are co-authored by his graduate or undergraduate researchers. Both his teaching and research aim to reconnect people to the natural world, a goal that extends to the community where he has led BioBlitzes and other field trips or hands-on presentations to groups ranging from early elementary students to retired citizens. His vertebrate animal expertise has been used to co-author a couple of popular zoology textbooks, develop and maintain the Fish and Mammal Collections at MSU, and serve as a long-time member of MSU's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), which ensures the institution complies with federal policies safeguarding animals as subjects in research, testing and teaching. Eisenhour has been the primary pre-pharmacy advisor for the last 23 years. Recently, he became involved with preparing future STEM educators as part of MSUTeach and the Noyce Grant programs.

Toni Hobbs, an Eastern Kentucky native, is the director of creative and branding services at Morehead State

University. In April 2020, she was accepted in the Ph.D. in Arts Administration program at the University of Kentucky (UK). She holds a Master of Arts in Arts Administration from UK, as well as a Master of Arts in Studio Art and a Bachelor of Arts in Art (Graphic Design), both from MSU. She is an illustrator and graphic designer who has exhibited nationally and internationally and has served as an MSU instructor since 2008. Hobbs currently serves on MSU Staff Congress and Eagle Diversity and Inclusion Team. She was instrumental in developing the initial concept for a mentoring program for underrepresented students, DREAMS, and is a founding member and former advisor of ALLYance (an LGBTQ+ student organization) at MSU. She also established the Hobbs Endowment for Equality, a \$50,000 endowment fund committed to supporting academic scholarship and diverse programming at MSU. She is a member of the MSU Visionary Society and Circle of Excellence, providing leadership and financial support to further the University's mission. Her community service includes serving as chair of the Morehead-Rowan County NewCity Community Development Corp., and chair of the Rowan County Arts Center promotions foundation board, where she also volunteers as an instructor.

Dr. Gary A. O'Dell served as an environmental technician for 11 years with the Division of Water and Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection before joining Morehead State University faculty in 2001 as a physical geographer. Having become a member of the National Speleological Society in 1967 as a young teenager, he has spent the last 50 years passionately involved in exploring and studying caves and karst systems. Along the way, O'Dell developed an abiding interest in the historical and environmental context of Kentucky and a considerable proportion of his published work is focused in this area. In 2014, he was appointed as state geographer by Governor Steve Beshear to recognize his significant Kentucky-focused contributions. O'Dell serves on the boards of directors of the American Cave Conservation Association and the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy. He is also the vice president of the Kentucky Old Mill Association. In 2020, he was honored by the National Speleological Society with the prestigious Peter M. Hauer Award in Spelean History. Among other projects, he is currently engaged in developing a textbook on the Appalachian Highlands region's physical landscape and environmental history. He received a Summer Fellowship award from MSU this year.

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NEWS RELEASE

September 29, 2020
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Dale wins KMEA district award

Dr. DuWayne Dale (07), assistant professor of music and director of bands at MSU, has been named the District 8 College/University Teacher of the Year by the Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA).

The KMEA is an organization consisting of more than 2,000 professional music educators from kindergarten to the university level dedicated to music education in Kentucky. Associated with the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), it serves as a voice for Kentucky's music educators.

"I am honored that my colleagues felt that I deserved the recognition," Dale said. "In truth, it motivates me to work that much harder to be worthy of it."

Dale earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees at MSU and earned his Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree from Boston University in 2018. He came to MSU as an instructor in 2017 as an assistant professor and assistant director of bands and was promoted to director of bands last year. Before coming to MSU, Dale taught music, high school/middle school band, high school orchestra, music theory, music technology and arts and humanities in Ohio and Kentucky. He also taught as an adjunct professor at Kentucky Wesleyan College and has served as a Regional Arts Specialist for the Kentucky Department of Education. His specialty areas are music education, instrumental music and Instrumental conducting. He said watching his students grow as educators is one of the most rewarding parts of his job.

"As a faculty member at MSU who works a great deal with pre-service music teachers, I am extremely gratified to watch my students evolve from student to teacher. The change is remarkable, and I enjoy being a part of it," Dale said, adding he also loves working with students to plan performances. "Also, working with our outstanding musicians to create incredible performances is one of the most exciting aspects of my position."

Dale is in competition to win the state Teacher of the Year award at the KMEA conference in February 2021.

For more information about music programs at Morehead State, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/music, email mtd@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2473.

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU's Tutoring and Learning Center goes virtual to help Eagles succeed

Morehead State University's Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC) has always provided cost-free assistance in various subjects to help students improve and excel. While the services TLC offers may look a bit different for the 2020-21 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the commitment to student success remains the same.

"Every TLC tutor is a powerful retention agent for MSU," said Hunter Chandler, coordinator of tutoring services at TLC. "The tutors establish a wonderful learning community where friendships, academic accountability and learning flourish."

When MSU had to switch to an online-only curriculum back in March 2020, the Tutoring and Learning Center quickly pivoted to online tutoring since it provided virtual tutoring for online, regional and dual-credit students. Using WebEx, tutors were able to connect with students from Eastern Kentucky to Tokyo, Japan. When internet accessibility was an issue, TLC met students' needs however and whenever possible. The TLC expanded its services to emailing, texting or other messaging platforms while adjusting platforms to ensure that tutoring services reached students.

The TLC and the Mathematics Learning and Testing Center in the Department of Mathematics also partnered to increase the number of tutors available to assist in mathematics courses.

"Transitioning from traditional blackboard mathematics to an online environment was challenging for students, but the pedagogical skillset of the mathematics faculty and the partnership between Centers fueled the success of the students," Chandler said.

Hunter Chandler was recently able to share his experience with successfully online tutoring during a global pandemic for others in his field. His essay highlighting the challenges of COVID-19 and the innovations that came out from it was ran in a special issue in the Learning Assistance Review, a peer-reviewed academic journal published through the National College Learning Center Association.

For the Fall 2020 semester, the Tutoring and Learning Center continues to provide a safe and healthy tutoring experience online. Tutors continue to utilize WebEx for tutoring while creatively engaging with their students through an active learning experience, like using an online whiteboard commonly used for STEM courses so students and tutors may collaborate during the appointment.

"Online learning changes the time management, study skills and notetaking environment, so the Tutoring and Learning Center provides time management, study, and notetaking skills-building appointments to help our Eagles continue to soar," Chandler said.

To learn more about MSU's Tutoring and Learning Center to schedule an online appointment, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/tutoring, call 606-783-2034 or email Chandler at hrchandler@moreheadstate.edu.

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MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity, educational institution.



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NEWS RELEASE

September 30, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

McAnally named a National Merit Commended Student

Sam McAnally of Elizabethtown, a senior at the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, has been named a Commended Student in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Though he will not continue in the National Merit Scholarship competition, McAnally joins approximately 34,000 other seniors across the nation who were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for their academic excellence. McAnally and other Commended Students placed in the top 50,000 scorers of the more than 1.5 million students who took the 2019 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics is a dual-credit residential high school for academically exceptional Kentucky students. The Craft Academy's purpose is to meet the unique educational needs of academically gifted and talented high school juniors and seniors in the Commonwealth. The academic rigor of the Craft Academy challenges students to excel at their highest level through project-based STEM+X courses and hands-on learning experiences, with emphasis on innovation, design and creativity, and civic and regional engagement.

For more information about the Craft Academy, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/craft-academy, email craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2093.

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Browning Orchard Festival on hold

Morehead State's Browning Orchard Festival has been placed on hold as students and faculty from the Department of Agricultural Sciences work to improve the health and wellness of the orchard.

"We're working specifically on the health of the trees and the land at the orchard," said MSU Farm Manager Joe Fraley. "A late frost in May killed out all the apples for this year. We plan on having the festival again as soon as we are confident in the health and longevity of the trees."

The annual festival is a staple in the MSU and Fleming County communities. Held each September by the MSU Department of Agricultural Sciences and Office of Alumni Relations and Development, the event features live music, apple picking, hayrides around the orchard, pony rides by the MSU Equestrian Team, a variety of kid activities and more. The event draws nearly 2,000 community members who enjoy reminiscing about old times, when the Browning family hosted events to celebrate the start of fall. The festival is a unique nod to the tradition that the Browning Family started as early as 1926.

Fraley said new trees are being planted to replace those damaged by the frost and that it could take a few years for the orchard to be back to the condition before the frost. The department is using this time as an opportunity to focus on other improvements to the orchard property as well.

For more information about programs in MSU'S Department of Agricultural Sciences, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/agriculture, email agsi@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2662.

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NEWS RELEASE

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Pelphrey named first recipient of newly established Cathy Goble Gullett Memorial Scholarship

The Morehead State University Foundation has announced the establishment of the Cathy Goble Gullett Memorial Scholarship, a fund to benefit Morehead State University students. The scholarship's first recipient is McKenna Pelphrey, a graduate of Johnson Central High School (JCHS) in Paintsville, who plans to major in education.

"There are no words to describe how much this means to me because Cathy was such a positive influence in so many lives. Luckily our family has been on the receiving end of her love and support for as long as I remember," Pelphrey said. "I am grateful and honored to receive this scholarship and hopefully, I will be able to impact many young people in the future."

The Cathy Goble Gullett Memorial Scholarship was established earlier this year to support students from Johnson Central High School who plan to study to become teachers. This scholarship was created in memory of Cathy Goble Gullett (74). Gullett began her college career at Prestonsburg Community College before enrolling in the University of Kentucky. She earned a master's degree from MSU in 1974. She started her teaching career at Porter Elementary School before moving on to Johnson Central High School. It was there she finished out her teaching career before officially retiring in 2004.

Gullett was involved in a variety of activities at Johnson Central. She taught freshman English, journalism and was actively involved in the school's newspaper "Eagle's Cry" and its radio program "The Golden Touch." She also volunteered in numerous roles for Johnson Central athletics for sports, including football, swimming, basketball and cheerleading. Most notably, she became the girl's golf coach and had several runners up and regional golf championship winners. In addition to coaching JCHS Eagle golfers, Gullett also worked with local youth at summer golf camps at the Paintsville Golf Course and was on the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Golf Board.

Gullett, along with her husband Nelson, spent over 20 years volunteering with the MSU Dr. Rex Chaney Golf Academy and was a faithful supporter of the program. Cathy passed away in March 2019.

Scholarship criteria include being a graduate of Johnson Central High School majoring in an education program with aspirations to become a teacher and a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Students interested in applying for this scholarship, along with other privately funded scholarships managed by the MSU Foundation, should visit the online scholarship application at moreheadstate.awardspring.com.

For more information on this scholarship, or to establish your own, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033, email giving@moreheadstate.edu or visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu.

MSU's Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education offers a reduced tuition rate on graduate courses to all Kentucky schoolteachers and other educators enrolled in courses within the college. To learn more, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/kyeducators.

Photo, pictured left to right: Nelson Gullett, husband of the late Cathy Goble Gullett (74), pictured with McKenna Pelphrey, the first recipient of the newly established Cathy Goble Gullett Memorial Scholarship.

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